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RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
"Agricolae." . . . VINE.

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AGRICULTURE.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE

Agricultural Society

OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, IN DELAWARE.

S. H. BLACK'S MEMOIR.

[Continued from Vol. II, page 11.]

Much has been said of late, on the change, supposed to have happened in our seasons, and many have attributed the failure of crops chiefly to that cause. Is there truth or justice in this? If we had been scorched by the tail of a comet; if the earth had shifted its axis, and thrown us to the south, under the rays of a vertical sun, or to the north, and given us to feel the influence of a frigid zone, then we might have complained; but these things have not happened. "Seed time and harvest" have not failed. That a slight variation in our seasons during the last half century, has happened, owing to causes which I acknowledge myself unable to explain, is certainly not to be denied; yet, that this change has had any material influence on our crops, I do most confidently dispute. Nor do I believe would this alteration have been much, if at all noticed; if the general failure of crops had not induced the farmers to turn the whole force of their minds to a critical examination of the weather. Far better for them, and for society, if they had devoted their attention to an examination of their soil, and left the atmosphere to the care of Providence. Truly nature, in her most sportive moments, never formed a climate, under which man has any reason to expect the "thorn to produce figs, or the bramble grapes."

If then the assumed quantum of produce, be allowed to the acre of land, we may, pretty safely venture to state the account in tabular form, thus—

1st Year,—			
Corn and	80 b. 00 75 p. b. ag.	\$60 00	
Potatoes in alternate rows	100 00 40	- 40 00	
2d Year,—			
Oats	80 50	- 40 00	
Pasture from July to Nov.	say	- 3 33	
3d Year,—			
Wheat	40 2 00	- 80 00	
Pasture from July to Nov.	-	- 3 33	
4th Year,—			
Grass	2 tons 20 00	- 40 00	
Pasture from July to Nov.	-	- 3 33	

In a period of four years, \$270 00

which divided, gives a product equal to \$67 50 per annum, and deducting from this one third for seed and cultivation, leaves \$45 00, nett profit to the proprietor.

Carrying our calculation no further than this point, we would seem to leave the value of land at seven hundred and fifty dollars, per acre. But we must not forget, that in a well regulated farm there will generally be one third part of the land, *lee*, as it has sometimes been termed; or, more properly, appropriated as pasture grounds. Supposing this to nett nothing clear to the owner; and deducting it from our last product, we still have remaining the sum of thirty dollars, or the interest at 6 per cent. per annum of five hundred dollars.

I have no question, in fact, (and to admit it will be to settle all dispute upon this part of the subject,) but the owner of such land as we have been contemplating, could most readily obtain a yearly rent, clear of all contingencies, equal to thirty* dollars an acre,

* If \$30 be the clear profit, what is the tenant to live on, for he must pay for labour—will he live on the *lee*?

Edit. Am. Far.

on the whole of his arable land; and I feel satisfied that a tenant under such a contract would find himself transcendently better provided for, than tilling land of the ordinary kind, and receiving the whole of its products for his care and labour. Let us for a moment view the subject in this light, and I trust it will not be thought a digression.

In our State, in a general way, taking soil, seasons, and accidents into view; and when the soil is dead, every casualty must have its weight, the average crops may be fairly stated in the following proportions, to wit; upon an acre of land ten bushels of Indian corn, fifteen of oats, and five of wheat. According to the present prevailing system of farming these are all the varieties of produce which can safely be calculated upon. This routine of crops on four fields as is now generally practised, consumes four entire years, allowing the wheat stubble of the preceding, to be the pasture ground of the last year. And we are willing also to allow what is not uncommon, a reservation of two thirds of this produce to the tenant for seed and cultivation: the account will then stand thus—

1 year, Corn,	10 B. at 75,	aggregate	\$7 50
2 year, Oats,	15 — 50,	—	7 50
3 year, Wheat,	5 — 2,00,	—	10 00
4 year, Pasture, barely sufficient for the stock			00 00
necessary to till the ground			

In a period of four years, \$25 00

Which divided by 4, gives a product equal to \$6 25 per annum. And again subdividing this between landlord and tenant, allows to the owner two dollars and eight cents; and to the cultivator four dollars and seventeen cents.

Under this system of farming, however, 'tis obvious that the land is daily growing worse; and will in a few years, like an imprudent man living on his principal, become absolutely exhausted, and entirely unproductive. In order to keep the land even as good as at present, we must presume a division of farms into at least six tillages; and in that event, make a further deduction from our last product, of one third for *lee-ground*. We shall then leave to the tenant two dollars and seventy-eight cents; and to the landlord one dollar and thirty-nine cents per annum, as the nett product of each acre of his arable land. And we shall thus see both of them placed precisely in the situation where we generally find them: the tenant in a state of restless anxiety, toil, and semi-starvation; whilst the landlord continues to hug his wretched soil, like Simon's disconsolate widow, embracing his lifeless wooden image, and with about the same effect.

This comparative view, between a first, and what I would term a third rate soil, leaves a vast difference to the tenant, between cultivating the one for a third of its product, and the other for two thirds, or even for the whole of its nett proceeds. Whilst in the former case he receives fifteen dollars for the cultivation of each acre, even including all his pasture grounds, which cost him nothing: in the latter, the price of his toil is reduced down to the pitiful sum of \$2 78.

And to the landlord, this soil of the third, or lowest rate, stands in value at about \$23 per acre supposing it to be all arable, and allowing nothing for perpetuating enclosures, taxes, or repair of buildings.

I would beg the indulgence of the society, whilst I notice another distinction which I wish to make in the grade of soils. We may have occasion hereafter to notice this distinction, and to explain it now, may therefore not be useless.

Where some progress has been made in the improvement of land, we meet with soils which may be properly denominated *second rate*. The product of which,

as a medium, may be fixed at forty bushels of corn, one hundred of potatoes, forty of oats, twenty of wheat, or one ton of grass in one season. Such land as this is not uncommon in this country. A little may be found, fluctuating between this and first rate; some between this and third rate. Much, very much settled down at third rate; but no entire farm that I know of has yet reached a truly first rate. This second rate may very properly be termed good land; and comparatively profitable. A short table will show us its value, allowing for cultivation one half, reserved payable in produce.

1st Year,—			
Corn and	40 b. at 00 75 ag.	\$30 00	
Potatoes in alternate rows	50 00 40	- 20 00	
2d Year,—			
Oats	40 00 50	- 20 00	
Pasture from July to Nov.	say	- 1 50	
3d Year,—			
Wheat	20 2 00	- 40 00	
Pasture	-	- 1 50	
4th Year,—			
Hay	1 ton	- 20 00	
Pasture	-	- 1 50	

In a period of four years \$134 50

Which divided, gives a product equal to \$33 67 per annum, and deducting one half for seed, and cultivation, leaves nett \$16 83; from which for pasture grounds, take one third of the first product, gives a clear profit to the owner equal to \$11 22; thus fixing the value of such land at about one hundred and eighty-five dollars per acre, no allowance being made for wood, taxes or repairs.

Although the resolution of the society in conformity to which this essay is written, seems to have contemplated merely the "intrinsic value of arable land," yet it would appear correct that in discussing this subject, we should extend our ideas further, and embrace in our range an entire farm, with all its usual varieties, and incidental incumbrances.

If so, wood, being to a farm an article of prime necessity, I should deem it just to make an allowance of twenty per cent. for this article. As it regards taxes, and repairs of buildings, I am disposed to believe that the greater security of a landed, than of a cash capital is a full equivalent for all such expenses. The allowance we have proposed, would reduce the actual value of arable land from five hundred to something more than four hundred dollars per acre; for land of the second rate, to about one hundred and fifty; and of the third rate, to eighteen dollars per acre. In relation to land of the lowest grade, which from being almost the only land common amongst us, men have generally founded their estimates, and long fixed in their minds conclusively their opinions as to the value of real estate generally, the result of our calculations very accurately square. This fact furnishes, at least, to my mind, a strong reason for believing that we are very near the truth indeed, upon the subjects of the first, and of the second rate. Habit and prejudice alone, seem to have bound down the minds of men to a perpetual contemplation of poor land; and that it is possible to make it rich, and immensely valuable, without adding to its present price any actual expense; seems a point nearly, if not entirely lost sight of. To this subject however, as the last, and as the basis on which rests our whole hypothesis, I now earnestly claim the attention of this society.

Thus far in our inquiry, I trust, and believe, we have been followed with the assent of every practical farmer, and of every man acquainted with the worth of money, and the full power of land. It is admitted

that we have reached the most difficult part of our subject; yet, if we here pause, resolved to prosecute the voyage of inquiry no further, although wind and tide are both adverse: notwithstanding habit, and prejudice be both in the opposition, we shall be able to assign no reason for the failure, except, that we would not apply steam.

But the monstrous idea!—make poor worn out land rich twelve inches deep, and capable of netting by its proceeds thirty dollars per acre annually;—and this without cost!—absurd!—ridiculous!

And to every man who will obstinately persist in acting as a mere machine, without reason, judgment or enterprise so it is, both ridiculous and absurd; and to such so it will continue to appear. Let us, however, not forget a favourite maxim of Rochefoucault's, "few things," says the Duke, "are impracticable in themselves: it is for want of application, rather than of means that men fail of success." What reply would probably have been given by a self-important son of Neptune, of the fifteenth century, if he had been told that a vessel of several hundred tons burthen could be urged at the rate of twelve miles an hour against wind and current, without the agency of canvass or oar! or what by a manufacturer of flour under Cromwell's reign, who hugged himself securely in a belief, that he knew all that could be known of his business; if he had been assured that many hundreds of bushels of grain could be conveyed from the first, to the third, or fourth story of his mill, in a few hours, without the least manual labour? Each for himself, would no doubt have replied; absurd!—ridiculous!

Although no new power has been given to steam, or to the principles of elevation since the creation, yet by a new application of their force and agency, great changes in the management of business amongst men have been effected.

The writer of this essay is however, not so foolishly vain, as to offer a comparison between his feeble efforts, and the towering genius of a Fulton; or the acute and enterprising mind of an Oliver Evans: he promises nothing, indeed, except it be to make the egg stand on its end, by striking it forcibly upon the table; he hopes only that by a new arrangement of old truths he may so secure the attention, and meet the judgment of farmers, as to obtain their active efforts to renovate their soil.

Towns, cities, and empires have, owing to causes, apparently inseparable from human affairs, had their periods of rise, decline, and fall. The noble, and important science of Agriculture owes primarily, and chiefly, I am satisfied, its present state of depression amongst us, to the imaginary labour and expense, connected with the improvement of our land. Those who own the soil have chiefly fled from this bug-bear, and taken refuge under a state of needy inactivity; covered themselves with the tattered garments of a contemptible system of speculation; or posted behind counters, swell with the idea of being merchants, whilst their soil, the first best gift of nature's God to man, is left struggling with its last remaining spark of life, to yield the needy and laborious tenant, a miserable pittance rigidly exacted from him for its use.

From this single false opinion, a host of errors have already risen, and a crowd of others seem ready to tread upon their heels. The proprietors of the soil, after having worn it out, and coward like abandoned it, are too apt, from the village, town, or city, where they have settled down; and from the vice, indolence and pride of which, are soon "caught their manners living as they rise," to look back upon the more humble occupant, with the eye of a feudal lord upon his vassals. And the tenant, too, worn down with toil, and immersed deeply perhaps in debt, and difficulties, soon loses his lofty republican spirit; both speedily acquiring habits, and modes of thinking, vilely aristocratic, and striking deeply at the root of our political institutions. Whenever this melancholy state of things, to which in our district at least, we seem fast tending, shall have been completed. Whenever from the poverty of the land, and its consequent little value, it shall be completely monopolised by the few; and the many become tenants under short, and op-

pressive leases, most assuredly then may we bid adieu, a long adieu to our present boasted and happy form of government. In short, according to the very nature of things, every landlord must be more or less a despot, and every tenant more or less a slave. Whilst a hardy yeomanry are acknowledged to be the sinews of a country; 'tis they who occupy, and who till their own soil alone, who constitute the heart, and vessels which propel, and convey, the vital streams that nourish, and keep alive her liberty.

Independently then of all other considerations, it would be well for those who approve, and admire our political institutions, and yet who, in forsaking their farms, have fled like sentinels from the watch-towers of their country, to return, resume the implements of husbandry, and breathe a new life into their soil; it can be done without labour except what shall be most amply reimbursed: it can be done without expense, except what shall be returned a hundred fold.

The principle upon which I calculate; and by which I hope to convince the landholder that his soil, however poor, may speedily, and certainly be made equal to first rate, in point of quality, is a very plain one: involving no secret process or slight-of-hand manoeuvre; 'tis simply, that the surplussage in the crops will, by a judicious management amply repay all necessary expenditures. Or, in other words, that the clear proceeds of the land, after deducting the usual crops, may easily be made to progress regularly, *pari passu*, and keep, at least, even pace with the money, principal and interest, expended in its improvement.

In order that I may be distinctly understood on this, which is certainly the most important part of our subject, I have been at some pains to graduate a scale, showing the progress of improvement of which land is susceptible.

I have supposed that land may be raised from a third, to a first rate soil, in a period of twelve years: the first eight being necessary to arrive at the second rate point. I have consequently divided the scale into three grand divisions, each including a space of four years. And applicable to a single lot of land, with its regular succession of crops.

Ye.	corn	pot's	oats	wht.	hay	corn	oats	wheat	soil's ori-
						10	15	5	ginal state
1	13	50							
2			23						
3				11					
4					1 ton	4)	25	50	29 13 1
5	28	75				ends of the 1st period of 4 yrs			
6			85						
7				20					
8					1½	8)	40	75	40 20 1½T
9	50	100				2d rate soil, end 2d period 4 yrs			
10			60						
11				35		12)	80	100	80 40 2T
12					2ton	1st rate, end 3d period of 4 yrs			

In illustration of this scale, and of my ideas generally on this point, I will state an extreme case, though a plain one, which every owner of poor land may, if he pleases, make his own; premising only that this scale, so far as it regards the full first period of four years, and part of the second term has been carefully graduated by my own actual experiments; part of the second, and the whole of the third periods has been the result of information obtained from sources indisputably correct, and from personal observation; the whole has been conducted with a view to this very subject, and with as much accuracy as I was capable of exercising. Several years have been consumed in this investigation, and when commenced, I had only a faint belief, that my present opinions were true; my prejudices were certainly against the possibility of making land rich without expense. I had derived

these through a long line of ancestors, by hereditary succession, and had them much strengthened by public sentiment. It required in my mind, the combined power of experiment, information, and observation, to shake what I now deem not only an erroneous, but also a dangerous opinion.

A—is the owner of ten acres of arable land, he has stock and farming utensils sufficient to cultivate it; and he has for many years, copying after his ancestors, and his neighbours, farmed it for a scanty produce, not sufficient, calculating all expense, to defray the charge of tillage. We will, however, say that the ten acres may yield him one hundred bushels of corn; one hundred and fifty of oats; and fifty of wheat; the fourth year he allowed his land to rest, as farmers term it.—His land by this course of tillage constantly grows worse: he becomes discontented, and resolves on some other expedient. He has no money—he could sell his land for ten dollars per acre; and thus become master of one hundred dollars. Which at interest, would yield him six dollars annually. This he justly deems of no consequence to him. An idea crosses his mind which pleases him; he thinks his land intrinsically worth five thousand dollars; the interest of which being three hundred, he supposes would satisfy him.—But how is he to attain this pleasing state of independence; to ask this rent for his ten acres of wretched soil; or on a sale to demand a principle which at interest would yield this sum, would in all probability procure him a place in a mad house, and furnish him a straight waist-coat and water-gruel. He wisely resolves on a totally different course. On the credit of his fee simple, he borrows from his neighbour, at six per cent interest, on a credit of four years, two hundred dollars. He pays this sum to a lime burner, who delivers him in return five hundred bushels of lime upon his land in the month of October. This he spreads equally over his ten acres, and immediately after, breaks up his ground four inches deep: in which state it remains until the following spring; when he flushes again about the same depth; harrows flat, and strikes it out in rows 8 feet apart; in these he drops his corn, one grain to each space of twelve inches. As soon as this has been completed, he strikes out a furrow exactly between each two rows of his corn; from which he throws the mould out on both sides, by passing his plough forward and back, in the same track. In these furrows he places all the manure of every description he can procure; and on it plants potatoes. If his manure will not hold out, thus to plant his whole ground, he completes it by leaves mixed with the top mould taken from a neighbouring wood; he now ploughs his corn, and potatoes once or twice early in the season, and works afterwards altogether with a fluke harrow: and thus avoids injuring the tender roots of his corn, or preventing their progress towards the potato rows, in which the manure has been deposited, and from which he knows the corn will receive its support at earing time, when most wanted. If he could this season, have taken, by the ordinary mode of farming, and without the agency of lime, one hundred bushels of corn from his land; he will not now fail to have one hundred and thirty bushels, and in addition, not less than five hundred bushels of potatoes. I would here merely remark, that the small increase of corn the first season, will be more justly attributable to this new mode of cultivation, than to the agency of the lime; as this substance is known to show but little of its active properties on the first crop; the addition of very little manure will however make its effects visible.

(To be continued.)

We have already published two numbers of a series of papers placed in our hands by Mr. Jeffreys, of North Carolina; and we have still on hand a volume of manuscript memoirs, which we have permission to give, under the proper names of several of the most celebrated writers on American Agriculture; we have not yet had leisure to examine them thoroughly, but we have looked over them sufficiently to enable us to announce to our readers, that they may expect in this valuable collection, communications from

Coly Taylor, of Caroline—the father of improvement in Southern Husbandry, from Thomas Jefferson, Judge Peters, of Pennsylvania, Thomas Marshall of Virginia, Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, and other citizens, distinguished for talents and public spirit.

It seems to be due to propriety, and gratitude, to record our acknowledgments to Mr. Jeffreys for the honour and the benefit he has conferred upon this Journal, in having selected it as a medium, worthy of conveying to the public the contents of these valuable papers.—Many of them were addressed to Mr. Jeffreys, as Corresponding Secretary of an Agricultural Society, in North Carolina, which, (we learn it with no little surprise, seeing what has been accomplished by the industry of a single member) has since fallen into decline and dissolution. For a great portion of these essays however, we and the public, are indebted to the individual zeal of the gentleman above-mentioned, by whom they have been collected since his functions ceased as secretary of the society. The following letter from Mr. Jeffreys to the Editor of the Farmer, which accompanied the first series of Memoirs, now in course of publication, would have more appropriately preceded number 1. It will still serve an explanatory purpose, as respects both the matter of these communications, and the manner of their being committed to the hands of the Editor of the American Farmer.

Edit. Am. Far.

Raleigh, (N. C.) Feb. 26th, 1820.

MR. SKINNER,—Accompanying this, you will receive six packets, covering seven communications for publication in the "American Farmer." I hope that you will view them in the same light that I do as valuable communications from experienced and intelligent farmers.

I did not have the pleasure of finishing my correspondence with Dr. Meriwether, of Virginia, as he died soon after his fourth letter was written to me.—He was a most distinguished agriculturist as his letters will prove, having commenced and carried into successful operation a system of improvement when few others had attempted it in Virginia. His merits on this account are the greater, as he had to depend on the resources and skill of his own mind, as there was nothing then written in his native state, on agricultural improvement.—His remarks on "early and deep ploughing, and the system of ridging," which he intended for a separate communication would have completed my correspondence with him.

The two letters from Loudoun County, must also be very acceptable to the public, as they give an account of a system of husbandry, said to be the most improved of any district in the southern states and which has been pronounced by that excellent judge, Judge Peters, to be of "peerless value."

The one from the county of Culpepper, where also agriculture is in a high state of improvement, cannot fail also to be read with interest by your agricultural subscribers. Before you have completed this series of communications, I will forward you on another, and if they can have the effect of adding to the value of your now highly estimated and widely diffused paper, I shall feel myself fully compensated for my exertions in the cause of agricultural improvement.

I am Sir, yours respectfully,

GEO. W. JEFFREYS.

No. III.

OF A SERIES OF

Agricultural Essays.

Communicated by Geo. W. Jeffreys, Esq. of North Carolina, for publication in the American Farmer.

Amelia, August 20th, 1818.

DEAR SIR,—I received your favour, dated June 30th, and should have answered it long before this time, but have been prevented mostly by professional avocations, the season here having been very sickly, a dysenteric fever has prevailed very much in this neighbourhood.

You have mentioned in your letter your preference for breaking up your corn ground before winter, in consequence of your soil being stiff, and infer that mine is a light one. I have made a digression from the plan I had laid down, to give an answer to these observations. I thought I had previously informed you, that my soil was generally a gray soil, shallow and on a substratum of coarse hard tenacious red clay, that when broke up, bakes like a brick bat, and that on the greater part of the cleared land, in consequence of the imprudent management of the former proprietors, the light top was generally washed away, and little left exclusive of the above substratum, so that I can with correctness say, that I know not a more stiff bakey land, and in reply to your observations on early ploughing, that when I commenced farming, I was of your opinion, but that experience had now taught me better, though I mean not to go into detail on this subject now, meaning to reserve the subject of deep and early ploughing, ridging, &c. for separate communications; so that you see that you are likely to be pestered with a voluminous correspondence—now for the detail I promised.

I believe I left off with the laying by my corn crop, and having finished cutting my clover seeds, this brings me to about the twentieth of July. I have to remark, that as well as my corn crop, I cultivate about an acre in cotton, the same quantity in pumpkins, half an acre corn field peas, ditto Irish potatoes, ditto flax, ditto turnips. I always keep every crop separate, and not intermixed. After finishing my corn, several of these little crops want working, and at this season, I fallow up a piece of ground for turnips, as the turnip crop is a very beneficial crop for our sheep and milch cows in the winter, it is necessary to have some for their use, and as this crop, as well as most others is either ameliorating or exhausting, according to the manner in which they are cultivated, I shall give you a detail of the manner in which I cultivate them, and I think without exhausting, but enriching the soil, being dissatisfied with the common method of cow-penning a piece of ground for two or three months, then ploughing it up, and sowing it in turnips, either broadcast or drilled, which produced only an ordinary crop, and after they were taken off, the general complaint was, that the land was nearly as poor as before manuring, though cow-penned three or four times longer than was necessary for other crops. I now adopt the following plan; as above stated, in the last of July, I chose a piece of ground in the field, that is to go in corn the ensuing year, and wants manuring,

not ground that will produce a good crop of corn without manure, nor so poor as to be entirely exhausted, on such land, under a ring fence and sown in clover, there will be a cover of weeds or light cover of clover; on such land I cart out, of long manure such as was not sufficiently tramped to cart out for the corn crop, or such as was made since, for instance, all the manure for the corn crop is carted out by the first of April, and the stock frequently do not go out of the farm yard here, till the twentieth of April, consequently there is twenty days feeding of manure, which is heaped up under the fence of the farm yard for turnips or other occasional use through the summer, together with such manure as the horses will make at the stable; of this manure I cart out enough to give it a light dressing, and fold it in with the weeds, and harrow the top well with a large fallow drag to make it fine; in this state it lays till the middle of August, when I cross plough it with a trowel hoe, and rake it again; I now ridge it up into three feet ridges with a single horse plough, and as soon as ridged up, I cart out as much more of the long manure, and lay in the furrow between the ridges, as I can bury in well by reversing the ridges on the manure, and after the ridges are well finished, I run a light harrow on the top of the ridge, and let it remain in this state, till a season comes for sowing, any time after the twentieth of August, which I consider as full early for winter turnips, but if you sow the Swedish turnip, which is by far the most valuable turnip, it ought to be sown somewhat earlier. At the time of sowing, I use a log of wood four feet long, with two pins put in it three feet apart, and a pair of handles to draw it by, made of two round strait poles, six feet long; this instrument is put with the two pins placed on the centre of each ridge, and drawn along by a man walking backwards in the furrow, this opens two little furrows on the top of the ridge, the turnip seeds are mixed with ashes, and dropped along in this furrow, covered over lightly with little iron hand rakes, such as are used in gardening, they not only cover the seed, but rake the clods off at the same time; if you have no garden rakes ready, they are easy made by having some spikes made at the blacksmith's, five or six inches long, four or five of them fixed in a wooden head two inches apart, makes a very good rake. Thus I open the furrows, drop the seeds in them, and cover them over immediately in succession by different hands, half a pint, or even a quarter will sow an acre of ground; after the seeds have come up well and before they begin to get too spindling from their thickness, they ought to be thinned, which I do by taking a piece of wood, such as an old hogshead stave, about a foot long rounded off at one end for a handle, and thinned at the other, with this they scrape away the young turnip the whole width of the stave, say four inches, leaving an inch or two between each stroke, and the balance are thinned by the hand so as to leave the turnips from 4 to 6 inches apart; after thinning, I ridge them out by trimming down the ridge like you do for tobacco or cotton, I plough between them about twice between ridging out and winter, with a single coulter with a broad point like a small trowel

hoe, perhaps you may think that the intervals between the rows, are too great, and the distance in the row also, but I can assure you, I have had the leaves to interlock at this distance. The advantage of cultivating the turnip in this method, is that while the long manure is rotting in the ground, ploughed in deep, and shaded by the turnips, a valuable crop is made, while the land is preparing for a subsequent crop, which may be followed by flax, cotton, corn, or what you please; it is by this method of culture now introduced into Great Britain, that they have converted a barren sand into a fine fertile wheat soil. I have enclosed a drawing, with explanations, to aid you in the better comprehending the plan. I have enclosed a few of the Swedish turnip seeds, which, if you have not seen any in the neighbourhood, I think you will esteem valuable, the tops being as good as the root, both for stock and man, they make an excellent winter green as well as spring, and continue growing a fortnight later in the spring, the leaf is as smooth as a colewort. It is probable you have lately seen some publications by Wm. Cobbett of New York, on this species of turnip, growing from 4 to 8 pounds weight each. I have sowed a thimble full of his seed which has sowed a row of upwards of 120 yards in length, and are now up. I intended to have written this time enough to have reached you for trying the experiment this year, though I now think it will be too late, but not for the sowing the turnip seed I sent, which ought to be on a rich moist lightish soil, thus I have finished the turnip crop and going on in detail of farming operations. After the corn is lain by and other things done as before-mentioned, I begin to thresh out my crop of wheat, which is done by a machine, of which there are a variety, some preferring one kind, some another of which it is difficult to say which is the best, but I think every farmer making 500 bushels of wheat, ought to have one: after getting out my wheat, I begin to carry it to market, if the season will not admit of fallowing:—by carrying down part early, I am enabled to get it all to market (50 miles) before the roads get too bad in winter. Every farmer ought to carry his own crop to market, his neglect of it must be bad economy. After getting out my wheat and clearing my ground fit for fallowing, if there is any leisure before commencing the pulling of fodder. I trim out light with the hand hoes, the grassiest parts of my corn field, to keep it clear for the wheat crop; the latter end of August, I always begin to pull my fodder, pulling about in spots where the ripest lies. Some object to early pulling, but I consider the loss of the fodder, laying after it is ripe, as much greater than the loss of the corn by beginning a little too early, good fodder being equivalent to corn. I pull my blades two above the ear, and cut the tops; I think the modern practice of pulling the whole into blade is bad economy, the top or tassel being a useful food for stock, the fodder house being also a convenient appendage to the farm yard, where every kind of offal ought to be collected. My blades after being well cured are put away in houses—after they are apparently cured in the corn field, I have them brought up to the farm yard, where they are put under shelters at night, and thrown out to sun for 4, 5, or

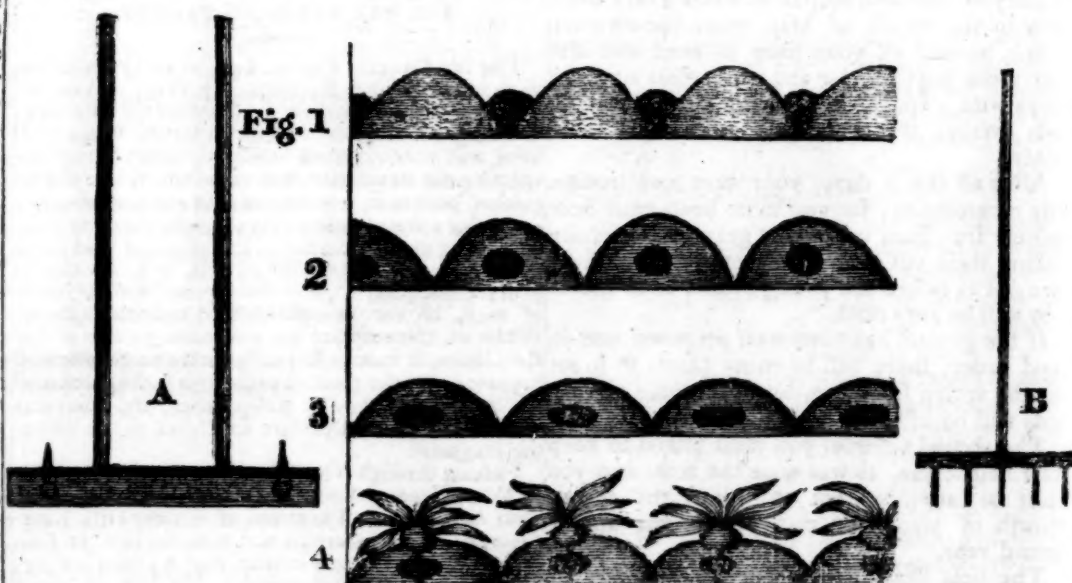
more days, according to the weather, before they are stowed away, the tops are also brought up to a yard adjoining the farm yard, which is called the stack yard, where the wheat straw, clover, hay, tops, &c. are all stowed away convenient either for food or litter to the stock through the winter. These operations will bring me down to the wheat sowing with the addition which ought before to have been mentioned of saving and distilling the early fruit, for there is nothing which an economical farmer can make, that he ought to buy. You ask me for information on the subject of seeding wheat. If the Richmond Inquirer circulates in your neighbourhood, I presume you have seen some observations on that subject, written by myself, with an engraving. The best instrument for putting in wheat in corn ground, cultivated in the usual way, is the trowel hoe or shovel plough, they furrow up the land deep, and let the wheat in shallow; it ought to be followed by a harrow either a one horse, or two horse as convenient, where the ground is clean, and the season favourable, that is neither too dry nor too wet, the five tooth coulter, followed by a straight toothed drag, will put it in very well in wet low grounds

that are ridged, a single horse barshare or dragon, ploughing in the wheat up to the corn with a light furrow, and followed by a straight-tooth drag, and the furrows afterwards opened wide and deep, is the best way; with respect to the kind of seed used, there is much obstinacy of opinion, I prefer the white early May wheat, and believe it to be the most productive of any, on wet or moist or low grounds. The lawler wheat (a new wheat) celebrated for its withstanding the attack of the Hessian Fly, was this year introduced among us; it appears a good wheat for early sowing, but is very late and subject to rust and blast—we cannot begin here to sow wheat, with safety against the Hessian Fly, till the tenth of October. Thus I must now finish this long and tedious letter, written in haste and more in the spirit of private confidence, than fit for the public eye. With well wishes for the success of your undertaking, I subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.

WM. MERIWETHER.

G. W. Jeffreys, Esq.



The above delineation is a section of ridges, manure, and turnips growing to elucidate my method of cultivating turnips, it gives you an end view of the same.

FIG. 1, Represents the ridges ploughed up, and the manure dropped in between them.

FIG. 2, Represents the ridges reversed on the manure.

FIG. 3, Represents the ridges raked down with a fine light one horse rake, and are ready for drilling and sowing, but if the weather is not seasonable, they ought to lay in this state till a shower of rain comes both to settle them on the manure, as well as to be moist for vegetating the seeds.

FIG. 4, Represents the turnip at its advanced stage of growth, the leaves interlocking and the main tap root penetrating through the mass of manure, this is a handsome sight, in a patch of well cultivated and luxuriantly growing turnips.

A Represents the log pins and handles as before described.

B Represents the hand rake as before described.

N. B. The above ridges, &c. are drawn by mathematical proportion, but the drill and hand rake are drawn at random, which make them appear much inferior to the other parts, a drill plough, if it could be procured, would supersede the necessity of the instruments, and do the work more expeditious.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON HEDGING.

FAIRFIELD FARM, March 8th, 1820.

MR. SKINNER,

My Dear Sir,—From your last letter enclosing a letter from your correspondent in Portland, on the subject of live fences, I feel disposed at once to give you my observations on

the raising of quicks from the haw. After paying due respect to your correspondent Caleb Kirk, on the subject of Hedging, and his valuable pieces on live fences, I have to observe, that in the important part of producing the live fences from raising the quick from the haws, he is not so particular as to inform those who know nothing on the subject or ever have seen it, to proceed with accuracy.

I will therefore freely give you my observations on that point, from sixteen years and upwards experience.

Without troubling you with the many disappointments and delays I met with in trying to raise them from the berry, I finally completely succeeded by adopting the following plan.

I procured in the month of November, a flour barrel of the haws, which cost me one dollar a bushel, late in that month, I put them out in my garden, laying a layer of the berries, and a layer of light earth alternately on a piece of ground, six feet wide, by three feet long, making my heap sloping to prevent its washing by the rain. I then covered the heap about four inches thick with earth.

I let them remain in that situation until June following when the heap was opened and spread over the ground about a foot thick, and so they continued until the first of December, when they were heaped up and covered as at first.

As soon as the ground was fit for gardening in the spring, I prepared a piece of ground in the garden sixty-four feet long, and fourteen feet wide, well manured, dug, and prepared for planting, divided into beds $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, with an alley of eighteen inches between every bed; early in the month of May, when the weather is fine, spread all your heap of seed and dirt over those beds regular and even, clear up your alleys with a spade, and throw the dirt over the beds evenly, then rake them and dress them nicely.

After all this is done, your care and trouble only commences; for you must keep your beds entirely free from weeds and grass, by carefully pulling them out as soon as they appear, taking care not to injure the young plants, as in places they will be very thick.

If the ground has been well prepared and in good order, there will be many plants fit to set out the spring following, and the whole of your beds will be fit the fall or spring after.

The second summer you must attend to keep your beds clean, as was done the first, and you must be attentive not to injure the second growth of plants, as many will come up the second year.

The best time for planting them is in the month of November in the fall, or in March and April in the spring; I prefer the latter.

The ground for planting them ought to be manured, and ploughed, or what is still better, let it be planted in potatoes the preceding year. These plants must be set by a line from six to ten inches apart, and about six inches deep, trimming off any straggling roots, and the tops cut so as to be about six inches above ground; tramp the earth round them when set, with your feet; you must be particular not to let them be exposed too long to the sun and air, while planting or it will kill them.

I have generally laid them in small parcels along the row when planting, and covered the roots with earth. They will require hoeing and cleaning, at least twice a year, for the first three years; and there ought to be an inside railing or temporary fence, to prevent the cattle or sheep from eating the young shoots, as they are very sweet and tender when putting out. By pursuing this mode you will have a complete fence in six or seven years, and by following

Mr. Kirk's method of laying and cutting, you will have it useful and permanent, ever after.

My observations have been confined to the New Castle Thorn, and I know it to be much superior to the Virginia, although not so soon to make a fence. The haws can be procured in New Castle, in great plenty, from September to the last of November, at about one dollar the bushel; and quicks are in abundance about Wilmington and Philadelphia, at five dollars the thousand.

The above sketches are made very hastily, but I hope will be found sufficiently particular to give correct information.

I had intended not to make any communication on the subject, until shortly before gathering the haws, as people are apt to forget those things, unless reminded at the time; however, as you wish to have all in your first volume, I do not withhold my mite, trifling as it is.

Very respectfully

Your friend, &c.

A. ALEXANDER.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

The late General Charles Lee, so well recollected as an officer of our Revolutionary War, and on account of his arrest, and for his controversy with Gen. Washington, it is admitted on all hands, was a well bred and accomplished scholar. Every scrap respecting our Revolution, and those who bore a distinguished part in it, is worthy of note and preservation, as casting some additional rays of light over the most interesting event recorded in the annals of man; and as bringing us back by a direct call, or by association to first principles, to the common sense, and the rights of man, of our unsophisticated national infancy. When we contemplate the vast consequences of our Revolution, it cannot fail to be exceedingly interesting to see how the mind of each actor in the great drama was formed, how it was polished, and what was its turn; such is the picture exhibited in the following fragment.

Passing through Virginia, during the Revolutionary War, General Lee called and spent a day or two with Col. Francis Thornton, of Society-Hill, King-George County; where he met with the late Mr. John A. Steuart, of the same county, then a young lawyer; conversing on literary subjects, Mr. Steuart asked the General for his opinion as to a course of reading proper for a young gentleman; in reply to which the General politely put in writing the following plan.—Mr. Steuart during his lifetime, was so good as to permit me to take a copy from the original. It has never yet been published; and although, we might now make a better selection from among modern authors, published since the General's time, than he has done, yet I have never seen any better plan of methodical reading than the following, which he has proposed; and by which he appears, himself to have acquired so vigorous a style of writing, as to have been one of those who have had the honour of being looked to as the putative authors of Junius. I therefore, send you the paper to be placed, if you think proper, in your valuable repository, for the use of the most important class of our fellow citizens.

W. G. B.

The scheme I would propose for methodical reading, or in other terms, of reaping advantage from reading, is as follows. As I think history and poetry the most improving and liberalizing, I would make them my primal object. We will begin with English, as the most

indispensably necessary. Rapin's History is indisputably the best of England. He should be read with much attention and geographically and chronologically, without which, all history rather confuses than benefits the understanding. The poet that should go hand in hand with Rapin, should be Shakspeare, as the most excellent in every sense, in style, imagination, and truth of character. By the poet's going hand in hand with the historian, I mean, that you should allot one hour every day, (after your history task is finished) not only to the perusal of him, but to the learning by heart, some striking passages: for, in all the circle of good writers, or speakers, of my acquaintance, I know not one who has not followed this plan. But now we are on the subject of improving our style, both in conversation and writing, there is another very beneficial method, which is, every day to transcribe a page or two of some of the most classical writers; for instance, the Craftsman, the Rhapsodical parts of the Turkish Spy, of Lord Bolingbroke, Shaftsbury, or Trenchard. Though I would recommend transcribing from prose writers, merely to improve the style, it is not the same with poets: they should be learnt by heart, not transcribed; because the latter impairs the memory rather than improves it; but the transcribing passages of prose writers, forms a habit of rounding our periods. Translating every day some few lines of Latin or French into good elegant English; is a very efficacious method. But to return to authors recommended to your studies: when you have finished Rapin and Shakspeare, though the latter can never be read too much, I would recommend the Parliamentary History and Dryden. The other poets, Milton, Pope, &c. you must make yourself well acquainted with. There are no other histories of England, perhaps, worth the reading; but there are, in English, many very valuable ones, of other ages and nations; Leland's History of Philip of Macedon; Middleton's of Cicero, Blackwal's Court of Augustus; to which may be added, Watson's of Philip the Second; I need not mention Robertson's, as you are acquainted with him. Next to good history, memoirs are the most valuable; perhaps they may be more so, at least they are more entertaining. Of these the best, that I know in English, are Rushworth and Ludlow. The best political discourses are the Craftsman, Bolingbroke's works, and Trenchard; unless we may class with English books, Fainworth's Translation of Machiavel's Discourses on Livy; which, perhaps, surpasses the original from the valuable notes, but let me, before I finish, repeat the expedience of some Poet always accompanying every prose writer. I had almost forgotten to mention another class of writers, absolutely necessary for a gentleman to be intimate with, some of the latter comic writers; Ethridge, Whycherly, Congreve and Vanbrough; for, as all these were men of fashion and the world, who passed their hours in the most polite company, their language and dialogue are models for conversation style; and, an intimacy with them, will, of course, unstiffen the preciseness, and pedantry of phraseology, we sometimes attract from more serious reading. I had forgotten to recommend a book which may be ranged under the head of memoirs, and which is, undoubtedly, (with some defects of style,) of ster-

ling value, I mean Burnet's History of his own times. I had likewise omitted the best performances of the epistolary kind; which, beyond dispute, are L. M. Montague's Letters, Lord Chesterfield's, Mr. Gray's, and the posthumous correspondence of Swift. I should likewise make an apology for having omitted Fielding's Works, which are all admirable, and Marshal's Travels through the Northern States of Europe, Bell's Travels to China, and General Manstern's Political and Military Memoirs of Russia, Sir John Chardin's Travels, and Dr. Shaw's.

With respect to Latin, I would pursue the same method as in English, of making a poet accompany a prose writer. First, Livy and Virgil; 2nd, Cicero with Horace and Lucretius; 3d, Tacitus with Lucian; Quintus Curtius with Ovid; Augustus Vitellius Paterculus with Catullus and Tibellus; in the obscene way, Petronius Arbiter with Martial. I have no poets to associate with Seneca and Pliny.

Of French books, I would recommend the following; in History, Louis Le Gendres, and Father Daniel's History of France; Tuanus, and L'Histoire de la Mere et du Fils, the memoirs are endless; but, the Duke de Sully, and Cardinal de Retz, are at their head. Moliere and Destarche are their most valuable poets; all Le Sage's novels are inestimable. In epistolary writings they shine above all nations, but of their best, perhaps, are De Justes Count L'Estrodes, Madam Maintenon's and Sevigne's; but, above all, Pascal's Provincial Letters. The merit of Montesquieu, and Montaigne is so notorious, that it is idle to take notice of them. The style as well as the matter, (but read with caution,) of Rosseau and Dutembert's are not less to be admired; and every scrap of Scarron is worth its weight in gold.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.
Western View near Jeffersonston, Culpepper County, Virg.
MARCH 27th, 1820.

DEAR SIR,—Having seen in the summer of 1818, a most extraordinary account of the qualities and production of a wheat, then recently introduced into England from Spain, called the Talavera, and stated to be selling at twenty guineas the bushel,—I was induced to order a few bushels, which in consequence of some difficulty and delay in procuring, did not reach me, until the last of January. The correspondent of my friend in Liverpool, of whom some inquiry was made as to its character, stated that though a winter, or fall wheat, it succeeded well, sown in spring. Desirous if possible to anticipate a crop, so as to get speedily into seed, I immediately prepared four acres of land, (which the then favourable state of the weather enabled me to do) three of which were part of a clover field, the other a naked fallow—both prepared on the spur of the occasion, upon which I harrowed in after a single ploughing, four bushels of the wheat, on the 6th of February; it vegetated early in March, grew rapidly, notwithstanding a violent assault from the hessian fly, which at one time threatened its destruction; came in simultaneously with my other varieties of wheat, and yielded to my own astonishment, and that of my neighbours, sixty-eight bushels, or an average of seventeen, per acre; at least one third however of this quantity was the product of the naked fallow, the clover lay at that season, as might have been expected, proving a serious disadvantage to the spring crop. The quality though inferior to the seed imported, surpassed any expectation, which could have been indulged under all the disadvantages attending the time, and manner of seeding: unaided too as it was in its struggle for maturity by a single show-

er, from the time of its blossom. The Talavera, is a smooth white wheat, the plants much larger, and more vigorous than those of our wheats, the straw uncommonly bright and stiff, and the head as well as grain almost double the size of the purple straw, or red chaff; it branches much more than any wheat I have ever met with; is earlier, and grows taller, without the same liability to fall; from a small experiment made with a view to ascertain that fact, I have no doubt of its being a hardier wheat, and better adapted to wet land than any in cultivation among us.—After distributing among a number of my agricultural friends in Virginia and Maryland, twelve or fifteen bushels of this product, I sowed the residue at different periods, from the 2nd to the 23rd of October, in a variety of situations and soil, both in corn land and fallow so as to make the experiment a fair one. It has at this time a decided superiority over any other wheat, either on my farm or in my neighbourhood, and from the luxuriance of its growth, is the admiration of all who have seen it. Should the product equal its present promise, I shall have it in my power to furnish a considerable quantity of seed to such of your agricultural friends, as may desire it, and upon terms much more favourable than I myself have obtained it.

Besides the Talavera, I have attempted the cultivation of six other kinds of foreign wheats, from the Mediterranean. Levant, and Black Seas; but two however, have succeeded at all, the Minorca, and Tagan Rock, and even those, as yet, not well.

With great respect,
I am your obed't serv't,
JOHN C. SCOTT.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON THE FEEDING OF POULTRY,
And a Statement of the extraordinary produce of Two Hens. April 2d, 1820.

DEAR SIR,—I copy the following from the European Magazine, for November, 1819, on an improved method of feeding poultry, leaving to your judgment to give it a place or not in the American Farmer.

As the following account, together with the few observations I have made on the management and feeding of fowls, may prove acceptable, and afford some useful hints to many amongst the numerous readers of your entertaining and widely circulated miscellany, you will oblige me by giving them a place in your work.

I procured two pullets of the black Spanish kind, which were hatched in June, 1818, and fed them constantly myself twice a day, alternating, their food, that is, I gave them corn in the morning, and in the afternoon boiled potatoes mixed with fresh bran, but I never allowed them to take a full meal of corn. They had a small orchard to range in, where, in the course of the day, they occasionally picked up worms and other insects; and I have observed that poultry of all kinds eagerly seek for animal food, even after they have satiated themselves with corn: indeed, I conceive a portion of animal food, essentially requisite to preserve them in a healthy state.

The above-mentioned pullets began to lay about the middle of November, and continued to do so, till within the last ten days, when they began to moult their feathers, having produced *three* hundred and sixty-seven eggs† much larger and finer than those of the common fowl*; seven eggs weigh one pound, avoirdupoise, so that I have been furnished with the astonishing weight of more than fifty-three pounds! nearly the whole nutritious and wholesome food, from *two hens*. They were never broody, nor showed any disposition to sit at any time during the whole season.

* It would seem that Mr. Jenner's hens laid more than an egg a day!!! a fine breed truly. *Ed Am. Fr.*
† I should here observe, that I had my hen roost robbed several times in the course of the summer, and lost probably from 20 to 30 eggs; but as I could not ascertain precisely the number, I have not reckoned them, consequently, my statement is within the number actually laid.

son, and I understood this property is peculiar to this species of fowl: it is, however, rather an advantage than otherwise, as the common kind, can incubate their eggs, and foster their young.

The wisdom and benevolence of Providence may be traced in all the works of creation; and in the above account, we may behold a striking instance of the Divine Bounty, in not only making an ample provision for the perpetuation of the species, but in granting a superabundance for the use of man.

I remain sir,
Your obedient servant,
G. C. JENNER.

Stone, near Berkly, Gloucestershire, }
October 14th, 1819.

Occasional Extracts.

ON PRESERVING TOBACCO BEDS FROM THE RAYAGES OF THE
FLY.

Calvert County, 28th May, 1819.

Mr. SKINNER,—

I have tried the decoction of Sassafras upon the tobacco fly, without effect. I then made it with tobacco and red pepper, which also failed; I have tried brimstone without effect, and a number of my neighbours have done the same; since your publication about the brimstone, your friend Mr. Mason, from St. Mary's, has been to my house; we had a conversation respecting brimstone being put on tobacco beds, he was still of an opinion, that it would answer. I am of a different opinion, and a number around me have tried it without effect; he hinted to me a plan, which I think would effectually prevent the depredations of those insects; which was, to fence the beds in with a plank one foot broad, as soon as they are burnt and sowed.—I do not believe a fly would hop six inches high, and I do not know that they crawl any, if they do, they can be prevented from getting over the plank by tarring of it.

Mr. SKINNER,

You would convey to many of us farmers a very useful information, if you would say something on the subject of Tanning; most of us are in the habit of tanning our own leather, finding that our upper leather wears better and is more impervious to water, than that which is tanned at the established tanning, but our sole leather is not as good, not knowing how to raise it so as to give it a sufficient thickness. Our mutton skins would also be very useful to us for many purposes on the farm, but we do not understand the mode of tanning them. Often being much injured and sometimes entirely spoiled in the liming, and are always very dark, not knowing how to give and retain that brightness which the northern tanned skins have.

Mr. SKINNER,

A Subscriber in page 413, Vol. I., of your American Farmer, inquires, "Who has succeeded in grafting or budding chesnuts?" In the preceding sentence, he speaks of the large Spanish chesnut, to which I presume he here alludes.

In the spring of 1814, I embarked at Bordeaux in the brig Rambler, and among various other exotics, brought with me two young Spanish chesnut trees, about 6 feet long and of the thickness of my thumb—they had been grafted

on the common horse chesnut (*maran d' inde*) the preceding season, the wounds not healed up yet.—On my arrival at Boston, I found it inconvenient to transport them by land in their full size, and being obliged to travel with expedition to the seat of government: I cut down the tops and furnished several of my Boston friends with grafts from them. They both took, but grew slow. I transplanted them 3 times to try the difference of soil, one of them has been accidentally destroyed, the other is thriving, and several gentlemen have taken grafts from it, but I have not understood yet how they have succeeded, though I know it to be a common practice in the south of France, where the trees are cultivated for their fruit as well as in Spain, which serves the lower classes of people for the main part of their sustenance in lieu of bread.

A Subscriber further remarks on the subject of fencing; that stone walls and live hedges are objectional on account of the vermin and cattle which destroy them, and the repairs can only with difficulty and cost be effected. It would suggest to plant locusts upon the lines every four feet apart; in the course of ten years, supposing they have all taken, cut down every other one, split the body into rails, mortice the standing trees, and you will have a neat, cheap, and lasting post and rail fence, which will give a handsome appearance to your farm. I have been told that locusts planted, about the time of their first signs of vegetation, which is here about generally in the first or second week in April, seldom fail by transplanting; it is also a fact known to me by repeated trials, that suckers thrown up from the root, seldom succeed in that operation, the young trees must be taken from the seed bed, where the straight ones can be selected for that purpose.

Respectfully your's,

A. W. PREUSS.

Montasil, 3d April, 1820.

To Prevent Bottled Cider from Buring.

Woodlawn, Surry, (Virg.) March 25th, 1820.

Mr. SKINNER.

Make a strong frame of plank, say 1½ or 2 inches thick and 9 deep, by locking it together edge wise, place it in the cellar and set the bottles of cider in it, (after being well corked) as close as possible, until it is entirely filled, except the space for one bottle which must be left to commence taking them from, when wanted for use. Then put clean fine sand on them, and settle it between the bottles, by throwing on alternately water and sand, until the sand is well settled half way up the neck of the bottle. In that situation the bottles will be preserved, filled with the very best cider for any length of time.

By placing ice on the sand over the quantity of bottles proposed to be used a day, it will be as cool as if put into ice water.

TO MAKE FAT AND WHITE VEAL.

"The Calves, as soon as capable of running, should be shut up in a dark warm pen, or stall with a small manger, breast high, in which unsifted Indian corn meal should be given to them daily, in such quantities only as they will consume; with a small bundle of fine hay tied up, and a lump of chalk within their reach. The licking and eating of these, will create an increased appetite for the cow's milk, and contribute so much to fatten them as to make infinite difference in the growth and goodness of

the veal; and their confined state will prevent the running their fat and flesh away. By licking the chalk, acidity which often causes a looseness, is prevented. A pen or stall eight or nine feet square, is sufficiently large for six or nine calves. The pen must be kept very dry and clean. By a strap round the neck, they should be led morning and evening to suck the cows, chained in their respective stalls, then led back to their own. In this manner, calves may be taught to suck other cows than their dams; but this is seldom necessary where cows are properly fed, except where you wish to make an extraordinary sized calf, by keeping it a week or two longer than usual.—The cows should be well fed upon good hay, and pumpkins, and boiled or steamed potatoes, mashed and mixed with hay tea, to which a handful of ground linseed cake, or some flaxseed jelly, may be occasionally added. If the hay has not been salted when housed, or stacked, a handful of salt should be given twice a week. The hay tea is most profitably made, by collecting the blossoms and leaves of clover from the barn floor, barn entry, or from the horse troughs, and after putting them in a tub, by pouring boiling water on them. Cows are very fond of the water, and by sprinkling a handful of the corn meal over the blossoms after they have drank it up, they will freely eat them.—To make veal white, bleed calves in the neck every third day, in clear weather, during the third and fourth week, until the calf is nearly faint, which may be known by his eyes. These bleedings should be in the middle of the day, after the calf has nearly digested its morning's meal. No animal is more subject to a plethora, or too much fullness, than calves; they therefore bear bleeding well. On this account also, they should be moderately fed at first, and blood must be taken away whenever they loathe their food."

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1820.

TO PREVENT SKIPPERS IN BACON.

Take of red pepper finely powdered, one table spoonful for every joint of meat, and rub it on the meat with the salt, when it is first cut up. It has been often tried, and was never known to fail in producing the above effect.

A NEW METHOD OF GRAFTING TREES.

A common method of grafting, is by making a transverse section in the bark of the stock, and a perpendicular slit below it; the bud is then pushed down to give it the position it is to have. This method is not always successful: it is better to reverse it by making the vertical slit above the transverse section, and pushing the bud upward into its position;—a method which rarely fails of success; because as the sap descends by the bark, as has been ascertained, and does not ascend, the bud thus placed above the transverse section, receives abundance, but when placed below, the sap cannot reach it. *Annales de Chimie.*

TO PROTECT TURNIPS FROM THE FLY.

Experiments made by Lord Sharet and Mr. Gray, have convinced them that lime, sown by hand or distributed by a machine, is an infallible protection to turnips, against the ravages of the fly. It should be applied as soon as the turnips come up, and in the same daily rotation in which they were sown. The lime should be slacked immediately before it is used,

if the air be not sufficiently moist to render that operation unnecessary. Those gentlemen have communicated the foregoing fact to the board of agriculture.

LUCERNE SEED.—We can inform any of our subscribers, who may wish to procure lucerne seed, where a few pounds may be had, (say about 20,) which we know to be fresh and good. It was imported this spring by a gentleman, who purposely sent for about that much more than he would want, to give an opportunity to those who might wish to make trial of it.—Not to undersell those who make a business of selling seed; the price will be 50 cents per pound.

LAUDABLE ZEAL.—We perceive by the last Albany Plough Boy, that a gentleman of that state, proposes to pay a visit to Mr. Barney, of Delaware, for the sake of obtaining on the spot, information as to his agricultural practices, and management of his live stock, especially his Bakewell Sheep.—We are persuaded that agricultural tours of this sort, would conduce much more to the wealth of the country, and quite as much to the health of the parties, as many others which are performed both at home and abroad in a manner more ostentatious and expensive.

Superior Live Stock.

Seventy cattle of very superior size and quality, were brought to this market last week, for sale by Mr. Daniel Mc Neall, of South Branch of Potomack, Virginia. Of these, a lot of thirty were purchased by Mr. Rusk, at 9 and \$10 per hundred—each one of which, averaged upwards of 1100 weight. This gives to the grazier, the handsome sum of upwards of \$3000 for thirty cattle, which will probably, when sold, leave in the hands of the victualler, a nett profit of from \$6 to \$800.—We again repeat that the profits of grazing, and the agricultural courses necessary to the success of the grazing system, at once the most beautiful and the most improving to the land, is not sufficiently understood in this state.

Grass and Root Crops, which lie at the very bottom of such a system, are just beginning to become the subject of conversation.

We have on our file, some remarks on the uses and importance of *root crops*, from the pen of Mr. Pickering, which well deserve to be framed and hung up over every Maryland Farmer's fire-place.

On the subject of *HEDGING*, the reader having first read the essay of friend Kirk, in the first volume, will now find the balance of what is necessary to be known, condensed in the paper from A. Alexander, in this number; it was intended for the first volume.

A communication is on hand from Charleston, South Carolina, on *Hedging*, setting forth the fitness of the wild rose, called *Multiflora*, for that purpose; we wait until we can get the engraving prepared, which it embraces.

Present Prices of Country Produce in this Market.

Actual sales of WHEAT—RED, per bushel 95 to \$1—WHITE do. 105 to 110—CORN, white, 45 to 50 cts.—other grains as report of last week—LIVE CATTLE, \$7 to 8—BUTTER, 25 cts, EGGS, 15 cts—BEEF, prime pieces, 10 cts.—MUTTON, 6 to 8 cts—POTATOES, per bushel 37½ to 50 cts—ONIONS 87½ cts—COD FISH, per quintal, \$3 to 3 25—N. E. BEANS per bushel, \$1 to 1 25—CHEESE, \$8 to 10—FLOUR, from the wagons, \$4 6½—WHISKEY, from do. 29 to 30 cts—HAY, \$16 to \$17. A few hhds. of Virginia TOBACCO, New Crop, sold the present week, for \$6 50 cts.—old do. \$7 75.

PRICES CURRENT

AT BALTIMORE:

Carefully revised and corrected every Thursday.

ARTICLES.	PER	RETAIL PRICES.
BEEF, Northern mess	bbl.	15
No. 1. - } wholesale.		12 1/2
No. 2. - }		10 1/2
Bacon, -	lb.	16
Butter, Firkin, wholesale.		18
Coffee, first quality, -		33
second do. -		27 28
Cotton, -		17
Twist, No. 5, -		41 45
No. 6 a 10, -		46 50
No. 11 a 20, -		53
No. 20 a 30, -		75
Chocolate, No. 1, -		33
No. 2, -		28
No. 3, -		25
Candles, mould -	box	20 22
dipt, -		18 19
spermaceti, -		45 scarce.
Cheese, American, -	lb.	10 15
Feathers, -		60 65
Fish, cod, dry, -	qtl.	3 50
herrings, Susquehannah, -	bbl.	ol. 2 50 3 new
mackerel, No. 1 a 3, -		6 9
shad, trimmed, -		7 75 7 87
Flour, superfine, -		5 50 6
fine, -		5 50 5 50
middlings, -		4 50 5
rye, -		4 a 4 25
Flaxseed, rough, -	cask	none.
cleaned, -	bush	do.
Flax, -	lb.	do.
Hides, dried, -		12 15
Hog's lard, -		12 13
Leather, soal, -		25 30
Molasses, Havana, -	gal.	45 50
New Orleans, -		50 60
sugar house, -		1
Oil, spermaceti, -		1 50
PORK, mess or 1st quality, -	bbl.	18 a 19
prime 2d do. -		15 a 16
cargo 3d do. -		14 a 15
Plaster, -	ton	5
ground -	bbl.	1 75
Rice, -	lb.	6
SPIRITS, Brandy, French, 4th proof	gal.	2 2 50
peach, 4th proof		1 25 1 50
apple, 1st proof		75
Gin, Holland, 1st proof		1 25 1 50
do. 4th proof		
do. N. England -		50 60
Rum, Jamaica, -		1 50 2
American, 1st proof		50 60
Whiskey, 1st proof		35 40
Soap, American, white, -	lb.	18 20
do, brown, -		9 12
Sugars, Havanna, white, -		19
brown, N. Orleans, -		11 12
loaf, -		25 28
lump, -		20 a 25
Salt, St. Ubes, -	bush	70
Liverpool, ground, -		75 1
Shot, all sizes, -	lb.	12
TOBACCO, Virginia fat, -	cwt.	7 6 50
do. middlings, -		6 50
Rappahannock, -		5 5 50
Kentucky, -		6 50 7 50
small twist, manufactured, lb.		25 37
pound do. -		50 75
TEAS, Bohea, -		63
Souchong, -		75 a 100
Fyson Skin, -		75 a 150
Young Hyson, -		1 25 a 150
Imperial, -		1 75
WOOL, Merino, clean, -		90
unwashed, -		40
crossed, clean, -		65
unwashed, -		35
common country, clean, -		37
unwashed, -		25
skin,er's -		33

POETRY.

THE FAITHFUL FRIEND.

My father left ten thousand pounds,
And will'd it all to me;
My friends like sun-flies, flock'd around,
As kind as kind could be.

This sent a buck, and that a bear,
And some the Lord knows what;
In short I thought I could declare
No man such friends had got.

They ate my meat, they drank my wine,
In truth so kind were they,
That be the weather wet or fine,
They'd dine with me next day.

They came—and like the circling year,
The circling glass went round;
Till something whisper'd in my ear,
"Ah, poor ten thousand pound!"

"Pshaw! stuff!" cried I "I'll hear it not
"Besides, such friends are mine,
"That what they have will be my lot,
"So push about the wine!"

The glasses rung, the jest prevail'd,
'Twas summer every day!
'Till like a flower by blight assail'd,
My thou' is dropt away.

Alas! and so my friends dropt off;
Like rose-leaves from the stem;
My fallen state but met their scoff,
And I no more saw them!

One friend, one honest friend remain'd,
When all the locusts flew,
One that ne'er shrunk, nor friendship feign'd,
My faithful DOG!—'twas you!

ON THE EXCRETORY DUCT OF THE FEET
OF SHEEP.

[R. R. Livingston, Esq.]

The diseases of animals and their cure, depends upon an accurate knowledge of their structure, I take the liberty to mention an observation upon that of sheep, which indeed was so obvious, that I conceived no farmer, and much less the naturalist that treats of this useful animal, could be ignorant of it; till I found by speaking on the subject to many experienced husbandmen, particularly to many members of this society, at a full meeting, that only one of the members had attended to the circumstance I allude to; nor is it noticed by Buffon or by Lisle, who treat largely on the diseases of sheep. This must be my apology to those who find no novelty in the following remark; the legs of sheep are furnished with a duct, which terminates in the fissure of the hoof; from which, when the animal is in health, there issues a white fluid, but when sick these ducts are stopped by the hardening of the fluid.

I have in some instances found that the sheep were relieved, merely by pressing out the hardened matter with the finger, from the orifice of the duct in each foot; perhaps it may be proper in some cases to place their feet in warm water, or to use a probe or hard brush for cleansing this passage.

May not the ill health of sheep in wet or muddy pastures, be in some measure ascribed to the necessity of keeping the duct I have mentioned free and open?

N. York Agri. Soc. Pub.

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	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Peas, true Early Frame	pr. bu. 15 00	16 00
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Blue Prussian	" 15 00	16 00
Beans, early Long pod, new sort	" 10 50	12 00
Windsor	" 13 75	16 00
Beets, true red	pr. lb. 3 50	4 00
White	" 3 50	4 00
Borecole, tall curled green	" 2 75	3 50
Brussels Sprouts	" 3 50	4 00
Brocoli, early purple	" 7 00	8 00
Late purple	" 7 00	8 00
White early	" 7 00	8 00
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Cauliflower, large, London, new sort	" 15 50	18 00
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Strasbourg	" 5 00	6 00
White Portugal	" 5 00	6 00
Parsley, curled	" 1 00	2 00
Paranip, new large sort	" 2 00	3 00
Radish, true Scarlet, and sorts	" 1 25	2 00
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Yellow	" 3 00	4 00
Turnip, early white Stone	" 1 75	2 50
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Talavera Wheat, spring, new sort	pr. bu. 6 00	8 00
Barley, spring	" 6 00	8 00
Peas, gray field	" 6 00	8 00
Oats, new sort, very productive,	" 4 00	6 00
Clover, English Red	pr. lb. 87 1/2	1 00

Order for any of the above seeds, will be thankfully received, by

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No. 13, North Gay Street.

Baltimore, April 14th, 1820.

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